



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - December 9, 2002

- ***In the West***, the most significant storm system since November 7-9 is approaching the ***Pacific Coast***, providing showers from ***western Washington to northern California***. Nearly all of the ***West*** continues to experience a variety of drought-related effects, including reduced irrigation supplies, stressed rangelands, and a poorly established ***Northwestern*** winter wheat crop.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, unfavorably dry conditions persist across the ***northwestern half of the region***, leaving winter wheat vulnerable to potential weather extremes. Farther south, rain is maintaining adequate to locally excessive soil moisture reserves across the ***south-central U.S.***
- ***In the Corn Belt***, another surge of bitterly cold air ***east of the Mississippi River*** is maintaining stress on livestock. Despite persistently cold ***Midwestern*** weather in recent weeks, significant snow cover is confined to the ***lower Great Lakes region*** and portions of the ***Ohio Valley***.
- ***In the South***, ***Louisiana's sugarcane areas*** experienced frosts and light freezes on December 6 and 7, but temperatures were not low enough to cause significant harm to the unharvested portion (approximately one-third) of the crop. In the ***Southeast***, dry weather is promoting final summer crop harvesting and winter wheat planting from ***Georgia northward***, while showers favors citrus and winter crops in ***Florida***. Meanwhile, showers are returning to the ***western Gulf Coast region***, maintaining wet field conditions.

Outlook: A developing storm system over the ***Gulf of Mexico*** will bring the threat of rain to the ***Gulf Coast and Southeastern States***, while high pressure will provide cool, dry weather to the remainder of the ***central and eastern U.S.*** Below-normal temperatures will linger in the ***Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, where some mid-week freezing rain is possible. In the ***West***, periods of rain and snow will accompany increased storminess in the ***Pacific Northwest and northern and central Rockies***, while dry weather will persist in the ***Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 14-18 calls for below-normal precipitation across the ***northern Plains***, but above-normal precipitation is forecast across the ***Great Basin and Pacific Coast States***, as well as most areas ***east of the Mississippi River***. Above-normal temperatures are expected nearly nationwide.

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